

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-23 and 49-53 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11, 18 and 49 have been amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 11 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the amendments to claims 11 and 49, it is respectfully requested that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pierce et al. (US 5,930,796) in view of Jatkowski (US 6,457,012); claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pierce and Jatkowski, and further in view of Hooper et al. (US 5,819,282); claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jatkowski, in view of Pierce; claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pierce and Jatkowski, and further in view of Wesinger (US 6,324,538); and claims 49-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jatkowski, in view of Pierce and Lee (US 5,590,198). In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Amended independent claim 11 includes, among other limitations, "comparing the address to the pre-validated addresses in the companion file for validating the address," "printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses," "if the address is not validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses, receiving the address from a terminal remote from the database," "comparing the address received from the remote terminal to the pre-approved addresses for validating the address," "printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the database of pre-approved addresses," and "storing information relating to the validated address, in the companion file, upon a validation of the address based on the database of pre-approved addresses."

The Pierce/Jatkowski combination does not suggest the above recited limitations. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion in the Office action that "instead of entering address into the local database at step 108 [of Pierce], Jatkowski method could be applied to Pierce method before updating the database," and thus rendering claim 11 obvious. (Office action, page 5, last paragraph.). Even replacing step 108 of FIG. 2 of pierce by the remote database of Jatkowski, does not render claim 11 obvious, because of the following independent reasons.

First, the Pierce/Jatkowski combination does not suggest "printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the companion file," "if the address is not validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses, receiving the address from a terminal remote from the database,"

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and "printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the database of pre-approved addresses."

Because the system of Pierce first checks a record database for valid DPBC's AND again checks the CD-ROM for address validation. Assuming that the record database of Pierce can be replaced by the remote database of Jatkowski, the combination of Pierce/Jatkowski still has to access both the database and the CD-ROM to validate the address, no matter what the results of step 108 is.

This is emphasized in Pierce as, "once it is determined that an address record exists for the address, either at step 104 or from step 112, then, at step 114, the system processes the user print request. At step 116, a determination is made that the address record is valid. . . ." (Col. 3, line 67 to col. 4, line 3, and FIG. 2, underlining added). The address validation step 116 of FIG. 2 is further described as verifying that "a CD-ROM hosted USPS ZIP+4 National Directory is present and valid for the current system date. The CD-ROM is needed to assign addresses with valid DPBC's. . . . At step 212, a check is made to determine if the address is valid using the CD-ROM hosted USPS ZIP+4 National Directory. (Col. 4, lines 12-17, underlining is added). If the address is not valid, an error is reported in step 216. (Fig. 3, step 216)

In contrast, in the claimed invention, first a companion file is accessed. If the address is validated based on the companion file, the validated address is printed, without having to access a database. However, if the address cannot be validated by the companion file, then a remote database is

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accessed. Finally, if the address is validated based on the remote database, then the validated address is printed.

Second, the Pierce/Jatkowski combination does not suggest "storing information relating to the validated address, in the companion file, upon a validation of the address based on the database of pre-approved addresses." Again, "storing information relating to the validated address in the companion file" only happens "upon a validation of the address based on the database of pre-approved addresses," and this happens if the address was not validated based on the companion file. The cited steps 212 and 220 of Pierce's FIG. 3 do not teach or suggest this limitation. Rather, as shown in step 212, if the address is valid (using the CD-ROM hosted USPS ZIP+4 National Directory), valid address data is stored in the record database. (FIG. 3 and col. 4, lines 26-29.).

Accordingly, claim 11 is patentable in view of the cited references. Therefore allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested. Dependent claims 12-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11 and include all of the limitations of claim 11. Therefore these claims are also allowable as is claim 11, and for additional limitations recited therein.

Independent claim 18 includes, among other limitations, "displaying the results for selection by a user, if one or more matches are found," "selecting an address from the results," and "printing the selected address on the VBI."

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the recited elements. More specifically,

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the Pierce/Jatkowski combination does not suggest the above limitation.

As the Examiner accurately states, Pierce does not disclose the above limitations. The relevant parts of Jatkowski explain that "at step 66, the interface application receives the reply from the master system application. The reply is reformatted by the interface application to a format readable by the initiating application. The interface application transmits the reformatted reply to the initiating application at step 68. The method then advances to step 70." Col. 5, lines 7-12, and FIG. 2). This does not amount to teaching or suggesting "displaying the results for selection by a user, if one or more matches are found," "selecting an address from the results," and "printing the selected address on the VBI."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 recites a novel and unobvious method over Pierce and Jatkowski and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 19-23, that depend directly or indirectly from claim 18 are allowable as is claim 18 and for additional limitations recited therein.

Amended independent claim 49 includes, among other limitations, "transmitting the comparison results to the remote terminal," "displaying the results on the remote terminal," "selecting a validated address from the displayed results," and "printing the selected validated address on the VBI." As discussed above, with respect to claim 18, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above limitation.

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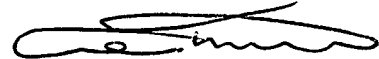
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Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 49 recites a novel and unobvious method over the cited references and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 50-53, that depend directly or indirectly from claim 49 are allowable as is claim 49 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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